Complete

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come."—PSALMS.

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RAILROAD CELEBRATION.—OPENING OF THE U. S. R. R. TO PROVO.

The completion of the Utah Southern railroad to Provo is an event in the history of that enterprising city long to be remembered, inaugurating, as it does, a bright future of commercial prosperity to the whole county of Utah.

Tuesday dawned beautiful, encouraging, by its balmy influence, old and young to assemble to witness the celebration in honor of the event; and at an early hour hundreds of people could be seen gathering from all parts of the county, in carriages, wagons, buggies, on horseback and on foot, fully determined to partake in the festivities of the great occasion.

The regular morning train from this city took down a large number of prominent citizens with their wives and children, who availed themselves of the first through train to extend their congratulations to our sister city.

At a few minutes past eight o'clock a special train left the depot in this city, in which were Presidents Brigham Young, George A. Smith, and D. H. Wells, with members of their families and a large number of invited guests, made up of prominent representative men with their wives, sons and daughters. After a pleasant run the train arrived at the depot in Provo at twenty minutes to eleven, where a large concourse of people had already assembled, with music and banners. The excursionists were kindly received by their friends, and after a few minutes spent in mutual congratulation, the celebration ceremonies commenced with music by the Provo brass band.

The assembly was called to order by Gen. W. B. Pace, who introduced the Hon. J. R. Milner, who in behalf of the Hon. A. O. Smoot, mayor of the city, delivered the following

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mr. President, Board of Directors and Stockholders of the U. S. R. R., and friends of progress in internal improvements.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—It is with profound feelings of gratitude to the Dispenser of all blessings that I have the honor to welcome the advent of the iron horse to our hitherto comparatively isolated city. In doing so I cannot but commend the energy displayed by you in pushing the road to its completion to Provo during a period

of financial depression resulting disastrously to so many roads. I have personally witnessed the indefatigable labors and energy of your construction agent and his very efficient corps of assistants and workmen, whose labors have been highly commendable.

On behalf of the citizens of Provo, as its executive officer, I tender you our congratulations and thanks that our city is now linked by bands of iron to the metropolis of our Territory and the leading cities of the nation, and that through the agency of steam, produced from the two devouring elements by the hand of science, the distance between us in point of time is materially lessened, and as our intercourse with each other will necessarily increase and our commercial relations be more fully developed, it is reasonable to hope that our fraternal feelings with our sister cities will be proportionately increased. It is pleasing to notice that the other end of yonder rail, pointing southward, as with the finger of prophecy, indicates that at no distant day the southern cities, towns, and villages of our Territory will enjoy the blessings we have now met to celebrate, and that the whole of the settlements of our wide-spread Territory will very shortly be brought into closer proximity.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to offer you a hearty welcome.

The address was received by a hearty round of applause, followed by music by the band, when the Hon. George A. Smith was introduced, who responded as follows:—

MR. SMITH'S RESPONSE.

Mr. Mayor, Citizens of Provo and Utah County generally—We thank you, in behalf of the President, Directors, stockholders and employees of the Utah Southern, for the kind sentiments and liberal views you have expressed, and the hearty welcome which is extended to us on the present occasion by the appearance of such a vast number of persons, and the rich and glowing sentiments expressed. We thank you all for your kindness and the exertions on this occasion, and to the Mayor and the inhabitants of Provo and Utah County generally, we express our thanks and gratitude for the efficient manner in which they have contributed their aid and the efforts of our neighbors, and we are exceedingly thankful that we have been enabled, under adverse circumstances, to accomplish this purpose, which, in accordance with the sentiments expressed by your honorable Mayor, will evidently and in a short time we hope extend south and into the southern cities of our Territory with the same iron band. We are thankful to our heavenly Father that he delivered us from persecution, from the hands of our enemies, gave us these valleys to improve and inherit, blessed the desert land and made it fruitful, and blessed the labor of our hands to form connections by telegraph and by railroad with the rest of mankind. With these sentiments and the sentiments expressed by your mayor, and we heartily accord with them, for this welcome may God bless you all. Amen.

Applause and music followed the delivery of President Smith's address, when David McKenzie, Esq., was introduced and read, in a loud and distinct voice.

PRESIDENT YOUNG'S ADDRESS.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

Assembled to celebrate the completion of the Utah Southern Railroad to this city, I gladly join in your rejoicings, feeling a deep interest, in common with you, in the successful progress of a work fraught with so many benefits to the people of this Territory.

I deem this a fitting occasion for briefly tracing our progress in the grand and steadily "onward and upward" march of praiseworthy improvement.

Soon after the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fayette, Seneca County, State of New York, on the 6th of April, 1830, with six members, the people removed to Kirtland, Ohio, and at once began erecting buildings, opening streets, preparing to build a Temple, which they completed; resumed the publication of the "Evening and Morning Star," after the destruction of the printing press, by a mob, in Jackson County, Missouri, in 1833; then published it under the title of "Messenger and

Advocate;" sent missionaries to various portions of the United States, Canada, and Europe; founded colonies near the western borders of Missouri, and labored zealously and indefatigably for the welfare of mankind, until they left their hard-earned homes in Kirtland and the adjacent regions.

SETTLEMENT IN MISSOURI.

In 1831, when forming their settlements near the western borders of Upper Missouri, the Saints found a region sparsely settled and but rudely improved, and, with their characteristic love for improvement, at once established schools, soon superseded the hominy block and the grater, by mills driven by horse and water power, published the first number of the "Evening and Morning Star" in June, 1832, then, if I rightly remember, the only newspaper published in Missouri outside of St. Louis, Jefferson City and Boonville; published a book entitled the "Book of Commandments," and, through unity and industry in every possible and laudable improvement, were rapidly acquiring desirable and very commendable surroundings, when they were driven into still more sparsely settled adjacent counties, where they again began, with untiring patience and unflagging energy, the improvement of themselves, their children, their few neighbors, and everything around them. This course was pursued, and prosperous settlements were dotting the prairies as by magic, until their expulsion from that State in 1838. At the time of this expulsion Gen. Clark remarked to the Saints:—"You must not be seen here as many as five together; if you are, the citizens will be upon you and destroy you, but you must flee immediately out of the State." Still he wished the Saints to remain, if they would only forsake or discard their religion, for said he, "You are an industrious people; you have done more in three years to build up the country and improve it, than the old settlers have done in sixteen years."

SETTLEMENT IN ILLINOIS.

After the expulsion from Missouri, their scattered numbers were gathered on the left bank of the Mississippi river, at a small town named Commerce, now Nauvoo, in Illinois, in the spring of 1839, and they there again began to exhibit that wonderful, unflagging zeal for improvement. In the next five years preceding the massacre of the Prophet and Patriarch, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, an extensive city site was laid out; large numbers of commodious dwellings were erected; the lowlands drained; many public edifices reared; the walls of a costly Temple raised to the first story; numerous schools put in operation; a University and other charters obtained; and several thousands of happy and industrious people were building up a great and prosperous city in a locality previously so unhealthy as to be shunned by all but few.

Other flourishing settlements were made in various parts of Hancock County, and across the river in Lee County, Iowa; and fields, orchards, flocks, herds, happy homes, and a peaceful and intelligent people were rapidly adding to the wealth and strength of our nation.

During the less than two years next after the massacre of the Prophet and Patriarch, the Temple was completed; a site selected in the Mississippi river for building a dam for manufacturing purposes, and all possible improvements encouraged and prosecuted to the utmost, until the power of religious intolerance turned efforts for continued and increasing improvements into preparations for leaving the State of Illinois.

Such were some of the labors of the Saints, partaking of the spirit, zeal and energy of their leader, the Prophet Joseph Smith, the founder of the great latter-day work, which the Lord of Hosts has commenced, and which he will watch over for good, unto its final consummation in accordance with His Divine Will.

TRAVELING WEST.

In February, 1846, the Saints began crossing the Mississippi river on their way to these distant valleys, and, making resting places at Garden Grove and Pisgah for those who were to follow, where we immediately provided school-houses, temporarily using tents for that purpose; and filling a requisition from our government for 500 men

to aid in the then war with Mexico, crossed the Missouri river, and erected several hundred log-houses made many dug-outs; built a gr s mill, and, according to our invariable custom, school-houses; divided the people into wards, with Bishops and police, and conducted all matters for the benefit, to the utmost, of a camp at its halt in Winter Quarters (now Florence) on the right bank of the Missouri, several miles above where now is Omaha.

That year we carried the standard of true civilization to California, establishing there the first library, and soon began publishing the "California Star," the first newspaper, so far as I am aware, printed on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Shortly after that date, the "Frontier Guardian" was published in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In April, 1847, the Pioneer Company, numbering 143 men, 3 women and 2 children, began their journey westward, in search of a location where we could unmolestedly serve the Lord our God, in accordance with His commandments.

I well remember that, when riding in advance of that company with my then First Counselor, Heber C. Kimball and others, to search out the route for the wagons to follow, we were carefully watching for and frequently conversing about a route for a railroad across the continent.

ARRIVAL IN UTAH.

That company reached the present site of Salt Lake City, on the 24th of July, 1847, and at once began its survey into streets and lots, and, aided by Capt. James Brown's detachment from the "Mormon Battalion," the erection of a fort for the comfort and security of the families who arrived that season, to the number of some 3,000 persons.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

In 1849, President George A. Smith presented, in the Legislature of the provisional State of Deseret, a memorial to Congress for the construction of a national railroad to the Pacific coast, which said Legislature adopted. In 1853, he presented a like memorial in the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, which was also adopted, under the following title—"Memorial to Congress for the construction of a great, national, central railroad to the Pacific coast." Pages 125-6 of Laws of Utah, published 1852.

It is thus clearly shown that, from the time of our leaving the Missouri river, our attention was drawn to and our influence exercised in favor of an inter-oceanic railroad, and so continued until the completion, early in 1869, of that great work, the Union and Central Pacific Railroad, to the construction of which the inhabitants of Utah rendered most efficient aid.

Few, if any, hailed the advent of telegraphic facilities with more joy than did the people of Utah, as evidenced by our furnishing and setting some 600 miles of poles for the first overland telegraph line, to hasten magnetic communication with the intelligence of the world. Since the completion of that line the "Deseret Telegraph Company" has stretched its wires to an aggregate length of 1000 miles, connecting all our principal cities, towns and mining camps, and penetrating South Eastern Nevada, Northern Arizona, and Southern Idaho.

UTAH RAILROADS.

Soon after the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad, the people of Utah, unaided by Government grants, began the construction of the Utah Central, and speedily completed it between Ogden and Salt Lake Cities; the Utah Southern, designed to connect with the Texas Pacific, was then commenced at the earliest practicable date, and has been prosecuted as rapidly as means and other facilities would permit, and we are now assembled to celebrate the result of this labor.

We are on the point of connection with Franklin, in the extreme north of the Territory, by our own railroads, a distance of some 170 miles nearly due north and south, with branches to Little Cottonwood and Bingham Cañons in Salt Lake County, and American Fork in Utah County, and the road from Echo to the coal beds in Summit County, to lend their powerful aid in facilitating travel and transportation, so necessary to the rapid advancement of our agricultural,

manufacturing, mining and all other material interests. And we hope to continue, until the inhabitants of this beautiful and thriving city are in railroad communication with that extensive net-work of roads ramifying our great country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and extending into Canada and Mexico.

Furnaces are busily occupied in smelting the rich, argentiferous galena and copper ores so abundant in our mountains.

Having thus briefly sketched a few of the prominent items of our history, I again refer to the conditions under which our labors have been performed.

JOSEPH SMITH.

It is true that the angel, commissioned to restore, in this our day, the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, found Joseph but a youth and comparatively unlearned, he having had but limited opportunities for education in the then wilds of Western New York; but, from that date, until so foully massacred with his brother Hyrum in Carthage, Hancock County, Illinois, on the 27th June, 1844, in the 39th year of his age, he assiduously applied himself to studying the English, German, Hebrew and other languages, and gaining all information of worth from every available source, especially through revelation from Heaven, the fountain of all light and knowledge. As many of you know, his was a life of no ordinary character, driven from place to place, surrounded by implacable enemies thirsting for his blood, harrassed by vexatious law suits, and, worse than all, by the dark plottings of false brethren which culminated in his foul murder. Yet, through all these vicissitudes, he never ceased his exertions to improve himself and his brethren.

Believing in his teachings, the teachings of the Savior, through His servants, the Latter-day Saints have from the beginning striven to emulate his pure and noble example, and, notwithstanding, the same spirit of opposition that sought to destroy the Prophet Joseph and the work of the Lord, has unceasingly labored to throw every obstacle in the way of our social, political and intellectual advancement, we have great reason to feel thankful for the results already achieved.

MATERIAL ADVANCEMENT.

From the arrival of the Pioneers in 1847 until now, the people of this Territory have at all times labored assiduously and untiringly, amid many adverse circumstances, for the prosperous settlement of the "Great American Desert" and the regions bordering, and for the best and most rapid development of the resources of these valleys and mountains. As some of the results, under the blessing of Israel's God, our cities, towns and villages are now numbered by hundreds, and extend from the Soda Springs, in the Territory of Idaho, some 230 miles north of this city, to the settlements in Arizona, some 400 miles south. Orchards, gardens, and farms have widely multiplied where barrenness has had sway for ages; commodious dwelling, school and meeting houses are fast supplanting the ruder buildings that circumstances at first compelled; numerous factories have relieved the slow and tedious processes of hard labor in the manufacture of textile fabrics; saw and grist mills have been multiplied to meet increasing wants; our publications have increased from the small sized *Deseret News*, first published weekly by Dr. Willard Richards in 1850, to the *Deseret News* published weekly, semi-weekly and daily; the *Juvenile Instructor*, semi-monthly; the *Woman's Exponent*, semi-monthly; the *Salt Lake Herald*, weekly, semi-weekly and daily; the *Ogden Junction*, semi-weekly and daily; the *Provo Times*, daily; large editions of the *Book of Mormon*, *Hymn Book*, *Answers to Questions*, *Catechism*, and other publications, not forgetting the famous *Keepapitchinin*. Ah! I also must not omit to mention the little *Cactus* in St. George.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

Education, in all that is useful, so obviously underlies true human progress, that a slight allusion in detail may be interesting to many, and serve to show the importance we have always attached to the education of our children, under the most adverse circumstances.

President George A. Smith, now my

first counselor, in settling Iron County in the winter of 1850-51, did not wait for the erection of a school-house, but began teaching, with the few elementary text-books then in possession, and by the light of the sage and greasewood camp fires. The first building erected in that county was a goodly sized, substantial block-house, for the use of meetings and schools, thereby impressing upon the minds of both old and young the importance of what, from first to last, we as a people have always considered a paramount duty, to diligently seek useful information from every available source, at all times and under all circumstances. With what success this duty has been prosecuted, under numerous disadvantages unknown to the world, let the 36,000 school-children of our young Territory answer.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Turning from the brief glance at our material and educational interests and advancement, I deem it fitting to remark that from July 24, 1847, to this auspicious day we are celebrating, our legislators, our judges, our county and city officers, our justices of the peace, all holding authority, in each and every department, and the whole people, with comparatively fewer exceptions than I am aware of elsewhere, have labored assiduously for the broadest enjoyment, by all, of the rights and privileges designed by our Creator for our benefit; to prevent the least encroachment upon the rights of any, no matter of what name, faith or nation; and to spread the area of freedom, uniting with everything conducing to the true progress of the human family in all that is in anywise beneficial, and to discourage, prevent, and eradicate, to the utmost of our influence, means, and opportunities, all that in the least degree militates against the welfare of our fellow beings, doing all possible good to all.

In speaking of the acts of the children of men, it has been wisely said,—"By their fruits ye shall know them." A few of the fruits produced by this people, during the past forty years, have now been passed in a review deemed best to be brief; and in my reflections I often wish that the whole world would do themselves the justice to carefully and candidly scrutinize our course, all our acts and purposes, anywhere and everywhere, when we have been true to our faith, from our earliest history till now, and learn, by our fruits, whether we are not ever true and fast friends to all our fellow beings, so far as they will permit, and ever zealously laboring to the utmost for the most rapid improvement in all things conducive to the temporal and eternal welfare and happiness of mankind.

CONGRATULATORY.

Friends and fellow-citizens,—Permit me to again congratulate you in now being in communication with all steam lines by sea and land throughout the world, and to wish peace, union and abundant prosperity to your beautiful city, and to all who are laboring to promote true progress, and advance commendable improvements.

Three hearty cheers were given at the conclusion of President Young's address, followed by music by the band.

S. S. Jones, Esq., of Provo, then read a poetic effusion, composed by himself for the occasion, which was well received. After more music

Hon. William Jennings, President of the U. S. R. R. was introduced, and in a few remarks reviewed the history of railroad building in the Territory. In referring to the present enterprise, he spoke highly of the assistance rendered by the people of Utah County, and enumerated the many benefits which would accrue to them from having railroad communication with the sea coasts east and west; speaking particularly of the advantages of being within reach of a market for their surplus grain and other products. He thanked the people of Provo, and Utah County generally, for the kind reception and hearty welcome which they had extended to the road and its officers this day. After more music,

Col. Feramorz Little, the general superintendent of the road, who had also been superintendent of construction, was introduced, and delivered a brief, practical address. He said he would rather build railroads than talk about them. He took the occasion to thank the people of Utah County for

their assistance to the road and their great kindness to him personally.

A number of toasts, brilliant, characteristic and appropriate, were then presented by various persons and read by Mr. McKenzie, which elicited much applause and hearty good feeling among the spectators.

Hon. J. M. Bernhisel, being called for, responded in a few brief remarks, in which he referred to the early efforts of the people of Utah to secure the construction of the Pacific Railroad. As early as 1853, as their delegate, he presented a petition to Congress on the subject, but the undertaking was considered so great that little attention was given to the matter.

After which the ceremonies were brought to a close, and the vast concourse was dismissed by benediction by Mr J. B. Milner.

There were probably over 2,000 persons present on the depot grounds to witness the ceremonies, who now dispersed to their several homes, highly delighted with the brilliant prospect before them in the completion of railroad communication to their county seat. The excursionists from this city, after partaking of the hospitalities of their Provo friends spent the afternoon in visiting the several objects of interest in the city. The Timpanogas woolen factory, in full operation, was an object of unusual interest to the visitors. Many visited the fine new court house, and the representatives of the press called at the office of the Provo *Times*, where they found the editors and typos neatly and comfortably situated, hard at work getting out a full account of the celebration for their current issue.

Preparations were being made for a grand ball and supper, at the Court House, to wind up the proceedings of the day, to which the excursionists were invited. Many remained who, doubtless, while we write this, are tripping the "light fantastic" to the sounds of merry music. Those whom business compelled to return, were provided with a special train and arrived at the depot about 8 o' clock, much pleased with the proceedings of the day, and wishing every success to Provo and the Utah Southern Railroad.—*Salt Lake Herald.*

There is a whole sermon in the saying of the old Persian, "In all thy quarrels leave open the door of reconciliation."

The admission of George Q. Cannon, of Utah, to his seat as Delegate, must have been a very drastic pill to Mr. Maxwell. The House swallowed Mr. Cannon, polygamy and all, by an "overwhelming majority." This is what Millard Fillmore did when he appointed Brigham Young Governor, and gave legal sanction to the existence of a community without whose active aid the Pacific Railroad would still have been a hopeless thing of the future.—*Omaha Herald.*

THE PETER'S PENCE FUND.—It is well known that of late years his Holiness Pope Pius has been very largely supported by the contributions of "the faithful" throughout the world, which have been collected under the ancient and historic name of St. Peter's Pence. The *Unita Cattolica* gives the following statistics of the annual receipts, which, we believe, have never before been published together. In 1861, the "Pence" amounted to 14,184,000f.; and in 1862 to 9,402,000f.; in 1863 to 7,047,000f.; in 1864 to 5,832,000f.; in 1865 to 6,445,000f.; in 1866 to 5,939,000f.; in 1867 to 11,312,000f.; in 1868 to 11,000,000f.; thus giving a total of 71,161,000f.; in eight years. The exact sums collected in the last four or five years are not given, but the same authority states that they are greatly in excess of previous years, and reckons that the total of "Peter's Pence" collected up to the present time cannot fall much short of 400,000,000 f. The great falling off in the years 1863-66 is accounted for by the same authority and by Catholic opinion on the ground of the general belief then prevailing that, after all, the temporal possessions of his Holiness were safe, and that, consequently, he had less urgent need of external subsidies.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1874.

FASTING.

THE Gospel embraces many ordinances, the observance of which bring to the Saints knowledge, gifts and blessings. In order to be admitted into the Church of Christ, in the first place, there are certain ordinances and requirements which the believer must accept and properly observe, otherwise, (so we are given to understand in the Scriptures), he can in no wise enter into the Church and Kingdom of God. So it is, in like manner, with those who have already become initiated into the Church of Christ: they must obey certain ordinances, in addition to those through which they obtained fellowship, in order that they may secure advanced knowledge, gifts and blessings. As every intelligent Latter-day Saint knows, he or she can never attain to any degree of happiness or joy which the Gospel may afford, without first seeking for that measure of reward in the proper way, and by performing the stipulated requirements.

There is an ordinance which at times ancient Israel observed in the strictest and most religious manner, which is known as fasting. It was observed by them on certain occasions, and regarded as a means of intercession with the Almighty when any especial favor was sought for, and on occasions for thanksgiving, and even on the happiest and most joyful ones. For instance, the Lord, through the Prophet Zechariah, gave the following commandment to Israel: "The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness and cheerful feasts." We may see from the character of David's fasting, at one time, how this manner of worship was looked upon by him and the subjects of his kingdom. When he had transgressed by causing Uriah to be slain and in taking unto himself the wife of his victim, the Lord was sorely vexed and struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne unto David, with sickness, and the latter besought God to spare the life of the child, fasting and praying and laying all night upon the earth. That David was truly penitent, and fervent and sincere in fasting and praying, we have good reason to believe by reading the Prophet's writings, but the word of the Lord was unalterable, and as a punishment for the crime that David had committed, the child died. In answer to his servants who wondered at his rising and eating bread as soon as he heard of the child's death, David said, "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now that he is dead, wherefore should I fast?" The king had fasted and prayed in order that the child might be spared. It was a blessing which he besought the Father for, but inasmuch as his supplications proved to be ineffectual in changing the decree of the Almighty, and the

life of the child was taken away, he knew it was no longer of any profit for him to fast and weep for that blessing, and, consequently, he bowed to the will of God. On another and certain occasion there was a solemn fast observed by the children of Israel (Nehemiah ix-1), when they confessed and repented of their sins and the iniquities of their fathers, and entered into covenant with God to keep holy his ordinances and obey his commandments. We have an account of king Darius, who, through the influence of Presidents, Princes and Governors opposed to the Prophet Daniel, confined the latter in a den of lions, going into his palace and passing the night fasting. In his day this rite was observed by the king, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the subjects, likewise, were in the occasional practice of it. The Prophet Joel also commanded the people in his day to regard this outward ordinance as the means of reconciliation between them and the Almighty. He said, "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." They were also commanded to "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly." The Savior of mankind, after being led by the Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of Satan, fasted forty days and forty nights. Paul, in his epistle to the Corinthians, admonished the Saints to give themselves to fasting and to prayer. Even among the Pharisees, fasting was observed and had evidently been one of the religious rites of ancient Israel to which the Jews still held, though doubtless with little or no profit to them, for they had renounced, as many so-called religious people have done since, the more important ordinances and doctrines of the ancient Faith. On a certain occasion, the disciples of John the Baptist, who had also observed their days of fasting, like the Pharisees, came to Jesus, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?" Jesus answered them by saying, "Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." Cornelius, we find, fasted four days and sought the Lord in prayer, that he might obtain the light and knowledge of God, and received the visitation of an holy angel, who directed him to the Apostle Peter. A miraculous instance is given in the New Testament, of the necessity and efficacy of fasting, in the case of a certain person who was possessed of a devil, and who was brought before Jesus. The disciples had tried to cast out the evil spirit, but were resisted, and the person was still under the influence of the evil spirit when brought to Jesus. The latter, however, rebuked the devil and he departed out of the person, who was cured from that time. In answer to his disciples who asked him, "Why could not we cast him out?" the Savior, after reproving them for their little faith, said, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Fasting has been the companion of prayer, as an outward manifestation to God that the worship of individuals was both earnest and sincere. Through their association the ancient people of God, at various periods and often, have been enabled to obtain the forgiveness of sins, to realize great and especial blessings, and, if nothing more, to manifest before Him their unwavering faith and fidelity to his Cause. Days of fasting, thanksgiving and prayer, appointed at the present day by civil or religious authority, or by statute or custom, are now almost universally devoted to unholy purposes, or to the very opposite of what ancient Israel devoted their appointed days of fasting and prayer. The

latter rendered their thanks and homage to God in the meaning and spirit thereof, when required to do so by Him through his Prophets; and when they regarded such occasions in any other way than with the deepest reverence and holiness, or offered their homage to the Lord in hypocrisy, he reproved and punished them accordingly. In reproving his people for their hypocrisy, at one time, the Lord, through his servant Isaiah, said, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our souls, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors. Behold ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness; ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?" Such was the manner in which the people in that day were fasting and praying, and for their hypocrisy the Lord rebuked them. They no doubt imagined that their abstinence and petitionings were acceptable before the Lord, but, we find them rejected by him, and pronounced as displeasing in his sight. He commanded them, when they fasted, to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free. "Is not this," said the Lord, "the fast I have chosen? to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him? and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Here is shown where fasting may prove a blessing to others, besides those who observe that ordinance with a becoming sense of holiness. The hungry were to be fed, the naked to be clothed, and they who had fasted and prayed in hypocrisy, were not to deny themselves to their own flesh. The Prophet Zechariah, also, was called upon by the Lord, to reprove and admonish the Jews for their lack of sincerity and for continuing in the unrighteous course that their fathers had pursued. The word of the Lord was, "Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?" He reproved them for their selfish and unnatural conduct toward one another, and for their vain and empty worship. In his sermon on the mount, Jesus instructed his disciples on the subject of fasting, and told them that when they did fast, to "be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast," but, he further said, "when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret will reward thee openly." It is to be readily perceived, that fasting, in all the generations of God's people, is a matter that has been frequently dwelt upon by the servants of the Lord, and has been an established custom, if not ordinance, among them. It is shown that even when the people have been in transgression, and their hearts turned from the true and living God, it still held a place among their otherwise changed forms of worship, though without being productive of any benefit to them by reason of their apostacy from the perfect order of the true Faith. And even to-day, the custom is observed among professed Christianity, though in different and peculiar ways, and with

as little profit to the people as the observance of the usage, or ordinance, was to the ancient Israelites, who forsook the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As other ordinances and requirements of the Gospel should necessarily be adopted and constantly observed, in like manner fasting should at certain times be observed by the Latter-day Saints. It is wise and often profitable to fast and pray in secret, as Jesus counseled his disciples to do, and it will be greatly to our advantage to set apart and observe one day at least in each month as a time for fasting and prayer. In many Branches in this Mission such a day has been appointed and we believe is so observed, but it is not generally the rule. One day in every month is appointed in the wards, settlements, towns and cities of Zion, when the Saints meet in their various meeting-houses and worship the Lord, with fasting and prayer. It is then, as well as on other occasions that the poor are remembered, and what means are saved by those who thus fast, whether in the shape of food, or money, are distributed among the poor, the widows and the fatherless. We are satisfied that if such a custom is observed by the Saints in this Mission,—that of fasting and meeting together for prayer,—say on the first Sunday in each month, the blessings of Heaven will be multiplied in their midst, and their faith will grow and gain strength. The means saved thereby would prove a comfort and a blessing to the poor and destitute among them. We trust that these few hints will be adopted by all concerned. There is no service or sacrifice we can render to God but what will bring its blessings. We cannot apply ourselves too diligently to the exercise of all duties and in living our religion; and we need spiritual food to give life and vigor to our souls, as much and as often as we do temporal food to nourish and sustain our temporal bodies.

J. C. G.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

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Hon. Geo. H. Williams, nominated by President Grant for the vacant office of Chief Justice of the United States, was born in Columbia County, N. Y., about 1820, his parents having previously lived at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Williams went to Iowa in 1844, where he engaged in the practice of the law, making rapid advancement therein, and was elected judge of the First Judicial District in that State in 1846, which office he held five years, during which time he achieved a reputation for great judicial ability. In 1850, he married the eldest daughter of Gen. V. P. Van Antwerp, losing her in 1863. In 1853, he was appointed Chief Justice for Oregon, resigning that office during Mr. Buchanan's administration. He was elected to the Senate of the United States by the Oregon Legislature, and took his seat in 1865. He was a member of the High Joint Commission for the settlement of the Alabama claims in 1871. He succeeded Mr. Ackerman as Attorney-General of the United States.

Judge Williams was thus described five years ago—

Judge Williams is tall and angular, and for a man who is in no sense comely or handsome, very fine-looking. I do not think him remarkable for his individuality or immobility, but he has plenty of what we call "brains"—intellectual power and force. He is clever in both the English and American sense of that much used and abused word; can adapt himself to circumstances, and please in the mahogany-furnished parlor or the puncheon-floored cabin; is generous and unsuspicious, and does not long cherish ill-will towards any one, or love "to treasure up a wrong." Personally, he is popular with the people, and his

election is very generally satisfactory, or cheerfully acquiesced in. Mr. Williams enjoys a laugh, and is apt to laugh with the world, let the world laugh at what it may; and with him, anything that can be successfully ridiculed can hardly be right. Though earnest he is not 'destructive,' and will help to build up rather than tear down. He is a good popular speaker, clear and distinct in his ideas, always forcible, often eloquent, and sometimes rises into the region of imagination, and adorns his speech with pure poetic gems. Some men have their motives of action noted in the past, while others live for the far-off future; but Judge Williams is a man of to-day, and draws his inspiration from the associations and events of the present. Mentally, and I may say physically, he is in the prime of life, has great capacity for work and business, and with the wide and varied scope that the Senate will give him to gratify his ambition and earn distinction, will make his mark and reflect credit upon his State and country.—*Deseret News.*

EXCUSES.

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The habit of imbibing strong drink is becoming deplorably prevalent among many otherwise good people hereabout. It is astonishing what miserable subterfuges a great many individuals resort to as excuses for going to take a drink. It is presumable that the excuses are prompted by the parties being half-ashamed at doing what their better sense tells them is contrary to their professions. They might as well save themselves the trouble of attempting to apologize, and if they would only consider what they would think about such excuses when they proceeded from others, they would cease making them, for but few people like to be considered hypocritical.

How many who pop into drinking saloons make worn-out excuses such as these—

"I've got a bad cold."

"I can't very well stand this hot weather without a little stimulant."

"Really, I'm not in the habit of drinking, but I feel so chilly, a dram would do me good."

Another goes into the dram shop holding his jaw and says—"I've got the tooth-ache, and a drink of liquor always eases me." This one takes enough to irrigate an acher.

"I take a little occasionally because I have to work so hard."—To help the matter this one drinks hard, and he soon becomes a hard case, wearing out the system by hard work and hard drinking.

"I'm bilious," says another, and he encourages that ailment by imbibing alcoholic poison.

Another says—"The water in this country doesn't agree with me." But few people would agree with him in this argument.

"I'm bald," exclaims another, "and alcoholic beverages encourage a hirsute growth." If this be true, it is generally *unknown*.

Another drinks to drown sorrow, and he might as well drown himself.

"Here's a friend of mine, and we thought we would take a little for old acquaintance' sake." The friendship of these fellows requires "stimulating," or it will die out.

"I've got such a poor appetite, and can't eat anything till I take a drop, especially in the morning." This one keeps killing what little appetite he may have by creating a false one and ruining his digestive apparatus.

"I've got the rheumatics, and a little liquor helps me along. Of course it does—to his grave.

"I've got the gripes in my stomach," says another.

"I'm low-spirited to-day." This one tries to keep his spirits up by pouring some down, and forgets the flatness of reaction when the influence of the liquor goes off; but perhaps he keeps adding more unnatural fuel before the steam has time to go down.

"I have so much walking to do, that I have to take a little occasionally to keep me going." Better keep his

family going in food and clothing and avoid going into debt and ultimate physical prostration.

"I haven't sufficient exercise, having to stay behind the counter all day, and I need a drink or two to sustain me." Yes, and then if this one did not drink and chew tobacco, customers would think the counter was wide enough without them having to get into the middle of the store to keep clear of the fumes of his aromatic breath.

Many other subterfuges, apologies and excuses, daily resorted to, might be adduced, for their name is legion, but the above are sufficient as samples. They remind one of the anecdote of the schoolmaster who, on entering the school-room unawares, found a large number of the scholars puffing away at tobacco pipes. He catechized each one in his turn. All the little fellows had an excuse, but when it came to the last one he was in a bad fix. The others had exhausted the vocabulary of excuses. At last a brilliant idea struck him; there was one apology that none of the others had made, so he said he "smoked for corns."

Then there are the deodorizers used by whisky drinkers, to submerge the smell of the liquor, by taking something with a still stronger effluvium, of which cloves appear to be the favorite. Some resort to raw onions.

Drinking is one of the greatest evils that afflicts the human family, being the primary cause of innumerable crimes of every name and nature, and should therefore be avoided.

It brings untold misery, not only upon drunkards themselves, but upon thousands of innocent families, and the excuse often put forward that in drinking a man only injures himself is utterly and totally false. Therefore it should be avoided.

Drinking robs a man of his manhood, by taking away his reason, beclouding his mental and destroying his physical powers. Therefore, it should be avoided.

If a man says he can take liquor or let it alone, then he is a fool if he doesn't let it alone.

A man may think he can drink moderately with impunity, but his reason should tell him that moderate drink creates and feeds an appetite for strong drink that will eventually enslave him if he does not quit, and he is apt to go down to the grave like a dog. Only think of the many examples illustrative of this.

Tipplers give the public too little credit for penetration. They think people do not know that they drink, and go on their way losing their characters for sobriety, and as a natural consequence for reliability, for however bright a drinking man may be, he is not a reliable man, for nothing is more treacherous in business than habitual dram drinking. Therefore, let one and all, old and young, avoid this debasing, soul-destroying vice.—*Deseret News.*

UTAH NEWS.

Our latest dates from Utah are to Dec. 14th. From the *Deseret News* we clip the following:—

Warden Rockwood's wards are inclined to be rebellious. They have a deep-seated prejudice against the cook, and want Mr. Rockwood to remove him, and have even demanded that he should do so. These penitentiary birds lately held a meeting at which they resolved that the Warden should remove the obnoxious cook, or they would not work. Mr. Rockwood received a document signed by fourteen of them, telling him what they had resolved upon, whereupon that gentleman signified to them his intention of putting ten of them in irons if they did not recede from their resolution, and he will do it too. Pretty cool business this for penitentiary prisoners to commence dictating as to the management of prison affairs in matters of this kind. The Warder has some of the hardest cases under his care that ever saw daylight.

As will be seen by our dispatches, the Senate has confirmed the nomination of Geo. R. Maxwell as U. S. Marshal for Utah. Any sort of stuff will do to make a marshal of.

About 12 o'clock last night (Dec. 9th) Mr. James M. Carter, formerly of the law firm of Marshal and Carter, and latterly of Carter and Wilson, departed this life. The deceased resided in this Territory a number of years, was well known, and, we believe, generally respected for numerous good qualities. The disease which terminated his life is said to have been brain fever.

On Monday, Dec. 8th, Captain Joab Lawrence, late President of the Eureka Mining Company, was arrested in New York, and on the same day Mr. John N. Whitney, late Vice-president of the same company, was arrested in this city, and borne eastward, in charge of a U. S. deputy marshal. Capt. E. B. Ward, of Detroit, and Mr. Packard, both connected with the company, the former being its present president, are the complainants, they claiming to have been the victims of a huge mining stock swindle at the hands of Messrs. Lawrence and Whitney. Both the latter, so far as we are aware, have been considered hereabouts to be highly respectable and honorable gentlemen, and it is to be hoped that an investigation of the charges will prove them to be without foundation.

On Tuesday, the 9th inst., an Indian woman of the town, named Susan Vance, fired several shots in her room, in a Commercial street alley, some of which went through the wall into the street. Capt. Burt visited the place and tried to induce her to open the door, which she refused to do. While the Captain stood at the window she produced and presented a six-shooter. He seized the hand that held it, while a couple of bystanders burst open the door and rushed in and seized her from behind. The weapon was taken from her and she was arrested and placed in jail.

Harrison Carter, the murderer of Mr. Bowen, late Chief of Police at Provo, has been captured. It came to the knowledge of Chief of Police A. Burt, of this city, that Carter was supposed to be in the vicinity of Elko, Nevada, and he at once placed himself in communication with the authorities of that place. A description of Carter was sent to Deputy Sheriff J. J. Ellis and constable Banks, of Elko, and the two latter were informed that a reward of $500 would be paid on the safe delivery of Carter in this city to Captain Burt. Constable Banks and another officer, on receiving this information, went after Carter, and, it appears, secured him, for Captain Burt received a dispatch this morning, (Dec. 13) dated at Ogden, from Constable Banks, stating that the prisoner was in the latter's custody, and that they would reach Salt Lake City by train some time to-day. The constable and prisoner were to be met at the depot by officers in this city on their arrival on the train. It is probable that Carter will be kept here till to-morrow morning, when he will be escorted to Provo.

Presidents B. Young, and George A. Smith reached Kanarra at 7-15 p.m., on the 12th, all well. Snow is two feet deep on the level. Weather clear and cold. About 75 men and teams started on the 11th, from Kanarra and Toquerville, to open the road. A dispatch from Kanarra to-day, says — "President Young and party went about two miles, but the snow was so deep they could not get through and had to return here."

The ensuing number of the *Juvenile Instructor*, No. 1, of Vol. 9, will contain twelve, in the place of eight pages, as heretofore. The number of engravings will also be proportionately increased in the coming volume, and it will be printed on superior paper. It is a most valuable journal, being peculiarly adapted to the wants of the rising generation, among the Latter-day Saints especially, and therefore should be in every household. Additional writing talent has been secured to contribute to its columns, and it may be expected that it will not only continue to maintain the excellent reputation it has already gained in the Territory and elsewhere, but that it will increase in popularity

and be eagerly sought after as a most desirable aid in educating the youth. Besides being admirably adapted for the young, however, it contains many articles having information which cannot fail to be of much interest to readers of maturer years.

The announcement that Prof. Leotard would walk across Second South Street, at 1 o'clock to-day, (Dec. 13) on a tight rope, drew a large crowd together in the vicinity of the Theatre at that hour. The rope was stretched from the upper windows of the Theatre across to the top of Patten's provision store, being about from thirty to forty feet from the ground. Shortly after the time appointed the Professor appeared at the south end of the rope, pole in hand. Whether from the cold or from nervousness, or from the two causes combined, he appeared to tremble as he started to walk over the rope. He advanced about fifteen feet, when he appeared to falter, and the large crowd of spectators were shocked to see him lose his balance. He came down astraddle of the rope, then turned overhead downwards. He seemed, however, to retain his presence of mind, to some extent, for he caught the rope with his feet, remaining suspended in this way for a moment, and then fell striking with his face, breast and left arm upon a wheelbarrow, which was standing near the outer edge of the sidewalk. He was taken up and conveyed to the green room of the Theatre. Dr. F. D. Benedict was sent for and was soon on the spot. When our reporter left, it had not been determined whether any bones were broken or not. The skin and flesh were pealed to the bone from the prominence of the chin, his mouth was considerably mashed, and his left arm was injured. As he struck upon his breast it is probable that he may be injured in that part internally and externally. As the Professor was clothed only in thin tights it is probable that the coldness of the atmosphere had something to do with causing the accident, but it appears a hazardous undertaking, to say the least, to attempt to walk such a distance on so small a rope, which was apparently new, and therefore likely to give, no matter how well it may have been stretched. As the poor fellow lay on the lounge in the green room, while being examined by Dr. Benedict, he bewailed his fate in a pitiable manner, saying, "O! why did I fall from that rope." As a matter of course, Professor Leotard is disabled from performing for the present.

From the *Salt Lake Herald:*—

Richfield, Dec. 8.—Winter is fairly upon the people of Sevier and Sanpete Counties, and the end is not yet. The stock on the range are browsing willows and sage brush. The Indians in these counties are sociable, but hungry. Peace prevails and the people appear happy. General improvements are everywhere apparent.

The snowstorm which visited this valley on Monday night has proved much more severe in the Southern part of the Territory. Reports received by Deseret telegraph line last evening are as follows:—Cove Creek, six inches of snow and still snowing. Cedar City—between ten and fifteen inches of snow. Kanarra—about two feet of snow. Pine Valley—about thirty inches of snow. Hebron—two feet of snow. Pioche—sixteen inches of snow. This is something so extremely unusual that the people Dixiewards may well imagine that the clime down that way is undergoing a decided change. Perhaps "Old Probabilities" is around. If the storm will kill off the flies, it will have accomplished one good result at least.

Mr. J. W. Young arrived in the city on Tuesday, (Dec. 9th) evening, in good health and spirits. He has been absent in Europe and the Eastern States for some months.

According to Beecher, "the cheapest thing on earth is a mean man. A faithful dog dies and he is missed; a good and stately horse dies and he is missed; the emigration of the birds in autumn is a source of sadness to us; but mean men die, and few tears fall."